

Deafness Will Not Hold Me Back

Written by Anneliese Kehoe

I am a deaf child. I am seven years old and I would be lying if I said it has been a smooth path. It has been hard at times.

I wear ear moulds and I get to choose the colour. I always go with sparkly. The teacher has to connect me to a speaker that she wears around her neck. All my teachers have said my surround sound speaker is pretty cool. It magnifies the teacher's voice. Mrs Corlett says every class in the country should have one and she will miss it next year when I move into middle school. My speaker beams out blue light when activated.

Keys around necks can jingle and jangle loudly. The pages of a book turning can be loud. I can handle it.

Sometimes the teacher forgets to switch off the speaker she wears around her neck. I have heard some VERY interesting conversations, especially when Mrs Gates, the next door teacher, burned her finger deeply with the glue gun. Mrs Gates was in agony and she needed assistance. My teacher said we all question our life choices in times of emergency and she hoped the language had not been too strong. She gave me a wink.

It is also great pretending not to hear my annoying brother and ignoring my mum when she has jobs for me. I pretend my speaker is switched off.

Being deaf has its advantages. I have decided I am never going to let it hold me back.